

LORD TEACH US TO PRAY

by
EVANGELIST
W. V. GRANT



To Change Things.
To Receive the Answer While Praying.
To Receive the Gifts of the Spirit.
To Be in God's Will.
To Have the Ministry of Deliverance.
In the Name of Jesus.
For a World Wide Revival.
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THE MARCH TO DELIVERANCE

LORD TEACH US TO PRAY
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LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

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Chapter I

"And it came to pass, that as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, 'LORD TEACH US TO PRAY . . .'" (Luke 11:1).

There are lots of things I cannot do. There are many things I have often wished I knew how to do. But above all of these things I would like to know how to pray. I have often felt like saying the same thing, "Lord, teach me to pray."

WHAT IS WRONG WHEN PRAYER FAILS? And we all know it sometimes does. Have you often wondered why some of the direct promises are not fulfilled in your life?

"If ye ask anything in my name I will do it" (John 14:14). ". . . Ask, and it shall be given YOU; seek and YE shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto YOU. For EVERYONE that asketh receiveth . . ." (Luke 11:9-10).

Why are not these and scores of other simple statements Jesus made fulfilled in our lives? Does not the trouble lie within us instead of Jesus the Son of God?

WE THINK OF MANY THINGS WHICH HINDER PRAYER. God's Word says one reason prayers go unanswered we may ask amiss that we may consume it upon our own lust (James 4:3).

For instance, if we spend the money which should go to God's minister on ourselves we think more of ourselves than we do God's man and the work of God or souls.

It is possible for us to think more of our house than we do God's house. That is when we fix our house up

better than we do God's house. Many people put rugs on their floors when God's house has no rugs. (read Haggai chapter one) Solomon spent about twice as much time on his own house than he did God's house.

Others think more of their work than they do the work of God. I remember hearing of a man who climbed the banisters of a river bridge to go to work one morning. The water was running over the bridge. He would not do that to go to work for God. He stayed at home from Sunday School because it rained.

Even a U. S. postman is required to go as far as he can before he turns to come back. If a bridge is washed out a mail carrier goes to the bridge before he returns. God's work is more important.

Some people will find the best job they can get and then go to the church which happens to be at that place. But wouldn't it be more consistent for us to find the church God wants us to worship in and then work at the job that happens to be at that place?

I asked a deacon to go to church with me one night. The first excuse he made was that it was too cold. I told him we had a good heater in the car and in the church. Then he said he was not ready. I told him I would wait until he got ready. He said his wife was not feeling well. "I will pray for God to heal her," I replied. Then he hung his head and grunted, "I don't believe I want to go tonight." Why didn't he tell the truth in the first place instead of telling three lies?

Moses told Pharaoh, God said, "Let my people go that they may serve me" (Ex. 7:16). And that is the reason God sets us free from bondage, that we may serve Him; that we may present our bodies to Him a living sacrifice, as the temples of the Holy Ghost,—a dwelling place for Him (Romans 12:1; I Cor. 3:16; 6:19). God is concerned about our bodies.

Jesus was greatly concerned about the nine lepers

who failed to return and give Him the glory for healing their bodies (Luke 17:17).

The first place Hezekiah went after he was healed was to the house of God (II Kings 20:5). The lame man at the Beautiful Gate went to worship immediately after his healing (Acts 3:8). Peter went to prayer meeting as soon as he saw he was delivered from prison (Acts 12:12). We need to give our lives to God's service. It is a new, divine life that He gives to us. His glory He will not give to another (Isa. 42:8).

THERE ARE MANY OTHER THINGS WHICH HINDER PRAYERS FROM BEING ANSWERED. It would take volumes to tell how unforgiving spirits in our hearts (Matt. 6:15), and different kinds of iniquities (Isa. 59:2) will hinder our prayers from being answered. Unkind words, bitterness, and envy will hinder God from answering (I Peter 3:7).

Eating too much and failing to fast may separate one from the Spirit of prayer.

Paul said for us to be temperate in ALL things. There are some things for us to abstain from. We are to be temperate in all legitimate things. We must not go to extremes in many things which are all right to do. In the last days many love pleasures MORE than they love God (II Tim. 3:4). There are many things which are not a sin; but we must put God first in our lives (Matt. 6:33). We must meditate on God's Word day and night (Ps. 1:2). We must have much of God's Word in us if we keep faith and the desire to pray. We must not let other things take the time we need to give to prayer.

But all these things only separate us from the anointing to pray.

WHAT IS WRONG WHEN YOU GET THE AN-OINTING AND THEN PRAYER FAILS? This will be discussed in the following chapters of this book.

REMEMBER THAT JESUS WAS THE ONLY ONE

AT THAT TIME WHO KNEW HOW TO PRAY. The disciples did not have the anointing, and they knew it. And best of all, they confessed it. That accounts as to why they later went places with God. Many today will not confess that they do not have the anointing to pray. So they go ahead saying prayers.

Remember at this time the disciples slept while the Master prayed (Luke 22:45). Although their names were written in Heaven (Luke 10:20) they did not know how to pray to get the answer (Mk. 9:28). The results they saw was because Jesus had spent nights in prayer and His presence was with them. After He left they were powerless until they received the Pray-er.

Chapter II

PATTERN FOR PRAYER

JESUS THEN GAVE THE DISCIPLES A PATTERN FOR PRAYER. It is not the Lord's prayer. It was for the disciples to use until they received the Pray-er. It is all the prayer some people have. They say it instead of **praying** it. We have no record where Jesus or the disciples ever repeated these words as an excuse for praying.

Since prayer is a sincere desire of the heart unto God we can pray a prayer in our heart, or we can render lip service to God without a prayer in our hearts (Mk. 7:6).

This pattern is given in different Gospels with a little different words, having the same meaning:

OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN

At that time the disciples were instructed to pray to their Father in heaven. After they went back and received the Comforter their Father was no longer in heaven only, but He came on the inside of them and took up His abode to dwell there (John 14:23).

The Father was at that time dwelling in Jesus and doing all the mighty works by the anointing of the Holy Ghost (John 14:10), (Luke 4:18), (Acts 10:38). Jesus told them if He went to His Father and sent the Holy Ghost to them they could do the same works, for they too would have the Father dwelling in them (John 14:10, 12).

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

We must consider the Father's name sacred, and come into His presence in an attitude of worship.

It was when the Syrophonician woman WORSHIPED Jesus that she had faith for her daughter's healing (Matt. 15:25).

Many want healing without the Healer, the baptism

without the Baptiser, and the gifts without the Giver.

Any Christian who is prepared to go to heaven is prepared to come into the presence of God. But you cannot come into the presence of an earthly king without respect and reverence.

THY KINGDOM COME

At that time the Kingdom had not come, but it was near at hand (Mk. 1:15). The disciples no longer had to pray like this after the Kingdom came. A person who prays like that now is confessing that he does not have the Kingdom in him.

Jesus plainly told them that the Kingdom would come within their lifetime (Mk. 1:9, 14:25), not with observation, and would be IN THEM (Luke 17:20, 21; John 14:17).

After one is converted and receives forgiveness of sins his body, which is the temple for the Holy Ghost, is left empty until he is filled with the Holy Ghost (Matt. 12:43). He may be in the Kingdom but the Kingdom is not in him (John 14:17). A Kingdom is not complete without the King on the throne. After Pentecost the King dwelled inside the temple or inside of the people (John 14:17).

Just as a lion is the king of the animal kingdom, so Jesus, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, is the King of the Spiritual Kingdom.

Jesus told the disciples to wait for the promise of the Father before they ministered any more after He left, because they were left powerless without the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:4-8).

Read in the book of Acts what miracles took place after King Jesus came and sat upon the throne of their hearts to make intercession through the Holy Ghost (Rom. 8:26-34). They not only prayed, but they had authority to command the devil, and he obeyed.

This same Gospel of the Kingdom is to be preached

to all the world before Jesus comes back (Matt. 4:23; 24:14).

We are translated into this Kingdom NOW (Heb. 12:28; Matt. 12:28), AFTER our sins are forgiven (Col. 1:13). Through this Kingdom we may have all our needs supplied (Matt. 6:33). This Kingdom is the anointing of the Holy Ghost Baptism (Rom. 14:17; I Cor. 4:20).

THY WILL BE DONE

Since it is God's will to keep His Word; be honest, truthful, merciful and compassionate, it is His will to forgive ALL our sins, and heal ALL our diseases (Ps. 103:3); give the Holy Ghost to ALL His children (Acts 2:38-39; Luke 11:9-13); and sanctify ALL (I Thess. 4:3). Therefore, we do not need to pray, "if it be thy will" when we are asking for what He put in His will (Testament). An "if" prayer generally goes unanswered.

ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN

Since there is no sin in heaven it is not His will for there to be drunkards, harlots, or thieves down on earth. Since there is no sickness in heaven it is not His will for us to have cancers, tumors, or any other disease on earth. His perfect will is for us to be well (Ps. 91:10; III Jn. 2).

GIVE US THIS DAY

Today is the day of salvation. Salvation includes both soul and body. NOW is the accepted time. NOW is the only time God has ever promised to save, fill, or heal. As long as we put it in the future we will never have it. He is a **present** help in time of need. He is the Great I AM. ". . . I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Ex. 15:26).

OUR DAILY BREAD

Jesus is the Bread of life. He that feedeth on this Bread shall never hunger. He is that Manna which came down from heaven. But we cannot go long on

yesterday's manna. We need a fresh supply every day. Healing is the children's bread (Matt. 15:23). If we ask for bread we will not get a stone (Luke 11:11).

FORGIVE OUR SINS

It is quite all right for us to pray for the Lord to forgive OUR sins, meaning national sins, as some of the old saints did. It is all right to pray for God to forgive your individual sins if you have them. And the disciples seemingly had them. But after Pentecost they were ABIDING IN HIM and HE WAS ABIDING IN THEM (John 14:17). He that abideth in Him sinneth not (I John 3:6).

AS WE FORGIVE OTHERS

If you pray after this pattern you are praying for God to forgive your sins just like you forgive others. If you want God to put your sin in the sea of His forgetfulness and never mention it again, you must not mention what others did after you forgive them.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Some willfully go into temptations and then say they could not keep from sinning. They even say God led them into sin, that they had to sin. No wonder their prayers go unanswered (John 15:7).

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, AND THE GLORY FOREVER.

We must know that the kingdom which is in us, which furnishes this power, belongs to God. It is not our own power or holiness (Acts 3:12). It is amazing what we can do for God if we care nothing for the credit.

Chapter III

GET THE PRAY-ER

JESUS HAD THE PRAY-ER AT THAT TIME AND THEY DID NOT. But He told them that they could do the same works He did after they received the Holy Ghost (John 14:12). That means they could pray just like He did, with the same results. If we have the New Testament experience we can have the New Testament results.

MOST OF THE TIME AFTER PENTECOST THEY JUST SPOKE THE WORD AND MIRACLES TOOK PLACE. Look at Peter and John merely speaking the words of God to the man at the Gate called Beautiful (Acts 3). Listen to Peter speaking to a man who kept his bed eight years, and hear Paul speak to a lifeless cripple, "Stand upright on thy feet." While Peter was yet speaking a group of people received the Holy Ghost. Mighty results take place as he lays his hands on Phillip's converts (Acts 8). They must have learned to pray and prayed through to the place so they had the answer.

UP UNTIL PENTECOST THE DISCIPLES HAD NEVER PRAYED IN THE NAME OF JESUS (John 16:23-24). But He told them after they received the anointing of the Holy Ghost they could ask anything in His name and He would do it (John 14:12-20). The righteous may carry the name of Jesus with them, or they may run into the Name where they will be safe (soul and body) (Prov. 18:10). Then all they do in word or deed will be done in the Name (Col. 3:17). After they really got into the Name they could have the signs following (Mk. 16:16-18), and minister to people in the Name (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-39).

They saw a few things happen while they were with Jesus, because of the prayers and anointing of Jesus;

but after Jesus left they could do nothing else until Jesus came into them to dwell (John 14:16, 23).

The Comforter was sent in Jesus' name (John 14:26). He comes to glorify Jesus (16:23); to manifest the life of Jesus in us (14:26). We are ambassadors for Christ and PRAY IN HIS STEAD. He set us an example that we should FOLLOW HIS STEPS. As He is so are we in this world.

Even Jesus did all His works under the anointing of the Holy Ghost (Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38). So the Holy Ghost can do the same works through God's anointed servants (John 14:17, 23, 10, 12).

OUR FAITH IS BUILT UP WHEN THE HOLY GHOST PRAYS THROUGH US (Jude 20; I Cor. 14:4, 14). The gift of faith is one of the nine gifts the Holy Ghost manifests through us. It is the faith of Jesus Christ imparted. It is the faith of God (Mk. 11:22; I Cor. 12:9). Jesus who then **dwells in us** is the author and finisher of our faith.

IF THE PRAY-ER DOES NOT PRAY THROUGH YOU THERE IS NOT MUCH USE IN YOUR SAYING PRAYERS.

I have known some groups at church services tell hard luck stories about thirty minutes before they pray; they call it "taking prayer requests." By the time everyone is through telling what the devil has been doing to them and their kinfolks and friends all the week, faith is dragged into the dirt. Then the poor pastor calls on a visiting minister, or a prominent member, who has been too busy all day to pray, to "lead us to the throne of grace in prayer." He says a few nice words, which sound good to the people's ears, and sits down with a congregation without the anointing.

The people with their own desires have told him what to pray for instead of the Holy Ghost telling him.

I returned to a church after about three years ab-

sence and found they had the same names on the prayer list, and calling them every night at service, twice each day over the radio, and on Sunday morning. They had been calling them for about three years. I thought, "No wonder we have so many unbelievers. People testify for the devil in every service."

After checking into it I found these old brothers and sisters wanted sympathy instead of healing. As soon as the minister left their names off the list; as soon as they heard that he did not call it over the pulpit; they would call him up and get him told. They would sit by the radio to see if he was going to call their names. He had to put the names back on the list or lose a **good member**.

How does God feel about these faith-killers?

WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO PRAY

WE SHOULD LEARN TO PRAY, BUT NOT LEARN HOW TO PRAY. Since the disciples admitted that they did not know how to pray we should admit the same.

When we learn how to preach the Lord usually stays in the background and lets us go ahead and preach. When we learn how to pray we generally pray (or say) our prayers without depending on God.

The story goes that a little girl was kneeling in an old time rail-fence corner saying something. When a long coat preacher came along he stopped and finally discovered that she was doing nothing but repeating her ABS's over and over again.

When she finished he was anxious to know why she was saying her alphabet over and over.

"I was praying," she answered.

Then he spent some time trying to teach her to pray. When he was exhausted she still did not seem to understand his big words.

"Oh let me pray my way," she answered, "Jesus knows how to put these ABC's together and make a good prayer—just what I need."

God saw faith in the girl that the minister did not have.

THE APOSTLES NEVER LEARNED TO PRAY. Paul said, "**We** know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for the **saints** according to the will of God." (Rom. 8:26-27).

When Paul failed to let the Spirit direct him to pray he did not know what to pray for (II Cor. 12:8). Peter, James, and John had the same experience (Luke 9:33, 54); also the mother of James and John

(Matt. 20:20). So did Elijah have that experience (I Kings 19:4).

We stand a chance to ask amiss when we pray for what we want (James 4:5). When we pray in the Spirit we never pray an IF prayer (Rom. 8:27). The Spirit never prays contrary to God's will.

" . . . If we ask ANYTHING according to His will He heareth us, and we know if He heareth us, WHATSOEVER WE ASK, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him (I John 5:14-15).

When the Holy Ghost is getting God's will through us is the only time we know that all things work together for good to those called to this purpose (Rom. 8:27-28).

We cannot understand what we are saying when we pray in the Spirit (I Cor. 14). We cannot utter it with our language (Rom. 8:26). Our understanding is unfruitful because we do not know for what to pray (I Cor. 14:14). The Spirit makes the intercession for us helping our infirmities.

It was a good thing my mother did not understand what the Holy Ghost was praying through her when she had a burden for me when I was out in sin. She would have been so full of fear she would have had no faith. The Holy Ghost prayed the prayer of faith in her and dropped the gift of faith in her soul giving her the assurance before I came to God. (I Cor. 12:9).

When my understanding was unfruitful the Holy Ghost prayed through me 13 hours without stopping and saved me \$5,000 and a whole family. Another time the Holy Ghost prayed through me saving my brother's life and soul while he was in a battle in World War II. I did not know where he was until after I had the assurance of victory and learned what I had prayed for.

I could name so many many times, when I did not

know danger was near, the Holy Ghost prayed through me and obtained the will of God for me.

Since the Holy Ghost teaches us ALL things, He teaches us what to pray for (John 14:26). He shows us things to come (John 16:13).

No wonder Paul said, as he was speaking about the Holy Ghost praying through us, "We are MORE THAN CONQUERORS," and "Who shall separate us" (Rom. 8).

PETER DID NOT KNOW HOW TO PRAY. He just lay on the house top looking up into heaven. He turned the whole thing over to the Holy Ghost. It was AFTER he prayed through that the Holy Ghost revealed to him about three men coming after him, (Acts 10) and gave him a vision concerning God's will.

JUDE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO PRAY. He said he let the Holy Ghost pray through him, building up his faith. He advised all of us to do the same (V. 20). Paul said when we pray in the Spirit we are built up or edified.

JOHN DID NOT KNOW HOW TO PRAY. He just lay IN THE SPIRIT on the Lord's day looking up into heaven (Rev. 1:10). But it was revealed to him afterward what the Spirit had worked out for him.

If we have the New Testament experience we will have the New Testament results.

Chapter V

LET THE PRAYER-ER PRAY

THERE ARE NO SUBSTITUTES OR SHORT CUTS TO PREVAILING PRAYER. There is no modern, up-to-date, popular, way to pray that takes the place of prayer that changes things.

People will drive fifty miles per hour to beat a freight train across the track, then stop and watch it go by. They talk about praying more than they pray. The reason they always say, "Pray for me," they have more confidence in the other man's prayer than they do their own. If he prays any he prays more than they do.

WE HAVE PREACHER HYPOCRITES ALSO. Most pastors are the busiest men we have. Their work is important, but not as important as prevailing prayer. The Apostles let their helpers (not deacons who bossed the preacher) take care of the material things while they gave themselves to the Word of God and prayer (Acts 6).

Most modern ministers drive 75 miles per hour and rush to service just in time to start. They have not tarried in God's presence enough to know the mind of the Spirit. They get everyone to do something if they can. They yell out, "I feel God here." They don't feel anything and the people know it. They say, "I am happy, praise the Lord." They are wishing service would get over as soon as possible.

These poor preachers have nothing to feed their people. When they see their members go somewhere else to get a blessing they scold them by saying, "You can get it anywhere. God is here." If a poor saint wants deliverance he had rather go to a minister who gives himself continually to the Word of God and prayer.

AFTER THE APOSTLES TARRIED IN GOD'S PRESENCE THEY HAD MESSAGES INSTEAD OF JUST SERMONS. THEY DID NOT SPECIALIZE IN SERMONS. They did not say, "It does not make any difference where you are." They brought the sick and filled the streets full of them, trying to get them even into the shadow of the man who had given God all his time in prayer (Acts 5). They soon found out who had the anointing of God with him.

They did not say Peter was building a reputation for himself. Peter was building confidence in God's power and the anointing. Peter and Paul were Pentecostal preachers who depended on prayer instead of politics for promotion. Peter had enough gumption to preach the message he received from God instead of preaching the sermon his denomination gave him (Acts 10). It almost cost him his credentials once, but he stood for God (Acts 15).

Peter and Paul could have had enough business to keep them busy, but they never got too busy to tarry in God's presence in prayer.

JESUS SET AN EXAMPLE THAT WE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS. He also could have had a large business; but He took time to steal away and pray whole nights in the mountains alone. The servant is not greater than his Lord.

WE SHOULD HAVE A CERTAIN PLACE TO PRAY. The next day after I was saved and filled I determined I would fix me a special place where I could pray in secret daily until I was refilled and had the assurance I was in the will of God. I would lay flat on my face in the pine straws, in the cotton seed at the barn, or flat on the bare ground. There I would pray out loud.

Many times I would get full of ticks. I finally got where I would trust God to keep the ticks off me.

Sometimes a snake would crawl near me and lick out its tongue near my head. I'd trust God, and stay there until victory came.

I would wonder how Uncle Bob could get anywhere in prayer by just laying on his back in silence, saying he was praying. I wonder how Mamma could get victory praying in a whisper. And wouldn't city-folk back-slide with no woods to go to each morning?

The first time I had to live in town I'd walk three miles each day where I'd pray out loud. After I was run out of that pasture I'd climb to the top of the court house and lay flat of my face on the flat roof. When I was caught I would then go into a room and pull off my clothes and go to bed, cover up my head and pray in a whisper. God could actually hear me!

Later I got to a place so I could sit in a chair for hours under God's power until victory came.

HAVE A SPECIAL TIME TO PRAY. You have a special time to eat, sleep, work, bathe, and most everything else. Some believe in waiting until they are driven to prayer by conviction. That is after they fail God. As the loving Father He is, God wants His children to do things without being driven. He will answer our prayers if we do things which are pleasing in His sight as well as keep His commandments (I John 3:22).

When I was in business, working long hours, I would set the alarm and get up during the night to pray one hour. Later I took off an hour in the afternoon, locked myself up, and prayed while customers hunted me.

When I was pastoring I made a rule that I would not get out of bed until I prayed through for everything I would face that day. I'd get my own breakfast or do without. I got out of bed generally between 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. I would go to my room at 4:00 p.m. each day and pray through before I ate my evening meal. I would fix my own supper if it was

late when I prayed through. I ate somewhere between 6:00 p.m. and midnight. Then for about 12 years I ate two meals each day, 12:00 noon and 12:00 midnight. I adjusted my meals to fit my prayer hours instead of fixing my prayer time to match my meals.

When I miss a regular hour of prayer I immediately feel the effects worse than a person who misses a regular cup of coffee. I get restless.

When you have the Pray-er an hour of prayer seems like ten minutes. Without Him ten minutes seems like an hour. I get more results from praying one hour and preaching ten minutes than praying ten minutes and preaching one hour.

Chapter VI

PRAY PRESISTENT PRAYERS

JESUS TEACHES IMPORTUNITY IN PRAYER.
Immediately after Jesus gave the disciples the pattern for prayer at that period He gave them a pretty parable of a man seeking three loaves of bread at midnight. Because of his importunity he received as much as he needed. Then Jesus expounded the parable by saying:

"And I say unto YOU, ask and it shall be given YOU; seek and YE shall find; knock and it shall be opened to YOU. For EVERYONE that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Luke 11:9-10).

That does not mean to ask a little and quit, seek a little and say you can't, or knock a few minutes and give up. It is not just repeating the words of what people call the Lord's prayer.

Some say "I have been seeking many years." But God says you shall find Him when you seek for Him with ALL your heart (Jer. 29:13). So many seek God in a half-hearted, unconcerned, don't-care, slouchy, droopy, hap-hazard way. Let not that man that wavereth, or that is double-minded, think he will receive anything (James 1:6-7).

JESUS TEACHES US TO CONTINUALLY COME.
"By her continual coming." (Luke 18:5).

"And shall not God avenge His own elect that cry day and night unto Him?" (Luke 18:7).

When God says, "EVERYONE that asketh receiveth," that means you do not have to go to college to learn how to pray.

JESUS TEACHES US NOT TO FAINT.

"Men ought always to pray and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).

"And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we will reap if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint." Isa. 40:41).

Just as one does not realize he is about to faint, or that he has fainted, until he comes to himself, so we do not realize that we are about to faint or have fainted until we pray an hour or two and receive a re-filling of the Spirit.

THE LORD IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM (Heb. 11:6). Elijah was a man of like passion as we are. He prayed EARNESTLY and received the answers to his prayers. Signs, miracles, and wonders followed his ministry. He was caught up alive.

Jude advised us to EARNESTLY contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints (Jude 3).

The woman with the issue of blood got in earnest and was healed because she pressed past the props (Mk. 5). From the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of heaven is preached and EVERY MAN presseth into it.

Had the men who let the man through the roof to Jesus been quitters they would never have gotten the man where the presence of God was present to heal.

Had we been blind Bartimaeus we might not have pressed past the Pharisees, the Saducees, those who did not want to see, and those who did not want others to see (Luke 18).

Some people, had they been the Syrophonecian woman would have said, "I guess my daughter has a thorn in the flesh" (Matt. 15:21).

PEOPLE HAD POWER IN PRAYER FOR PETER IN PRISON. They made prayer to God without ceas-

ing. It was not special songs, pretty preaching, or melody in music that opened the prison doors. They may not have prayed in an audible voice but they tarried until.

WE ARE COMMANDED TO PRAY WITHOUT CEASING (I Thes. 5:17). I think that means our continual coming (Luke 18:5), for we see where Jesus ceased praying (Luke 11:1). We should keep praying until we get the answer (the assurance in our souls).

Too many people when we ask them to pray for one hour promise they will, listen to the radio, or visit that hour, and say they prayed all day without ceasing. Our hearts should be in tune with God continually, but we need our hour of prayer which results in the lame man walking (Acts 3). A quitter never wins—a winner never quits.

Chapter VII

WE SHOULD TARRY BEFORE GOD IN PRAYER

AFTER WE RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST. Many people have been taught that they have to be perfect to receive the Holy Ghost. They tarry for years before receiving the experience. After they are filled they think they are perfect and do not tarry any more. They have it backward. They should receive the Holy Ghost the same night they are saved and after that spend all the time they can in tarrying before God in prayer.

In every case after Pentecost the Holy Ghost was given without tarrying. Before Pentecost the Holy Ghost was not yet given (John 7: 37-37); since Pentecost He has already been given. It is impossible to be ready to enter into God's presence in Heaven and not be ready to receive something to help get there and lead you into perfection.

GOD IS WEARY OF HEARING MERE WORDS (Mal. 2:17). When we asked the Christians to pray thirty minutes each day one man stood in the service and said he could not think of enough things to say to pray thirty minutes. That is the reason some say the same thing over and over.

God knows how to give us things (Matt. 7:11). He knows what we need before we ask Him (Matt. 6:8). We do not need to explain to Him. Prayer gets us in a position to receive things from God. It causes our faith to get on a plane so we will be in contact with God.

The first step is to tarry in God's presence until you feel led to ask a petition and what to ask for. During that time you may be silent; but in an attitude of worship.

The next step is to put in your petition. You are

not supposed to repeat the same thing over and over (Matt. 6:7). If you ask something according to His will you know that He hears you (I John 5:14). If you ask God seven times for something, six times are in unbelief.

The next step, where most people fail, is to tarry in God's presence until He drops the answer into your heart, giving you the assurance in your soul.

The next step is to obey God and be led by the Spirit of God, so He can use you (if He chooses to use you) to bring the answer to pass.

In tarrying in His presence let God talk to you instead of you explaining things to Him as though He were deaf and dumb and half crazy.

GOD WILL DROP THE GIFT OF FAITH INTO YOUR HEART (I Cor. 12:9). Sometimes before you speak He will answer. Sometimes He will put assurance into your soul while you are yet speaking your petition (Isa. 65:24). Other times you wait for some time before you get in an attitude of faith to accept the victory in your soul. Some want to see before they believe; but you must believe before you see (John 11:40).

It is God dwelling in you decreeing a thing and declaring it done. It is not one thing you can say or do, if everything is right between you and Him, except wait for the answer as He has commanded (I Thes. 5:17). The answer is purely because of grace.

Many years in revival, as I tarried in God's presence for hours just before night service, God would drop the assurance into my soul that I would have power over all the power of the devil which would be at service that night. As sure as we would obey the Spirit we would see things come to pass.

I have a little book I prize highly. About 20 years ago when God dropped the assurance into my soul that a prayer was answered I would stop praying

and write it down, putting the date at the bottom. Days, months, and sometimes years later, I would write the date it was answered.

THE NEW TESTAMENT SAINTS WAITED ON GOD FOR THE ANSWER. Look into the life of Jesus. Look at Peter lying on the house top looking into heaven until God gave him the assurance (Acts 10). Ananias tarried before God until he received the assurance that Saul would receive the Holy Ghost and be healed of blind eyes (Acts 9).

I hardly think their wives had them running to the cleaners; to the grocery store, carrying her to the beauty shop, or to see her kin-folk.

THE DEVIL WILL TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE WASTING TIME. But you would work until 12:00 O'clock if you were making \$5.00 per hour. Power to bind Satan is worth more than \$5.00 per hour.

People spend time and money for books, and schooling to learn how God used Peter, Paul, and others. But yet they act as if their time is more important than the time of Jesus, Peter, and John.

Some go into the woods to "still hunt." After they have been waiting for hours in silence a squirrel will creep along (maybe). After in stillness and quietness on the water's edge a fish will happen along (maybe). After waiting in God's presence for hours in silence you will hear the voice of God or feel the answer (Not maybe).

ONE FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST CAN LAY SILENT UNDER THE POWER. I used to go to sleep trying to wait before God. I walked and washed my face trying to wake up. But an old minister told me what to do, just sleep.

I would go ahead and sleep. I would not sleep over five minutes (that is if I went to bed as I should the night before without wasting God's time). After I slept just enough to rest my mind and nerves I would

awake lying under God's power. I would sometimes lay there in a semi-sleep for hours, in the Spirit. Scriptures would dwell in my mind during that time. Maybe I would receive a message, or some Word of wisdom or Word of knowledge. Sometimes God would let me tune in on a future service seeing just what was going to happen. Other times an outline of a book would appear before me. I would get up and write it.

You can go to sleep driving a car. You stop and sleep and you will not sleep but a few minutes. Most of the time your eyes, mind, and nerves need rest. After five minutes in silence you can drive for hours. Go to sleep a few minutes and rest your mind and nerves, and wake up under God's power refreshed.

When I can't sleep at night I redeem the time praying. Before long Satan will not try to hinder me from sleeping.

We should "pray through" instead of "getting through praying."

Since Jesus and the Apostles tarried in God's presence until they could take the answer to the people they could see miracles by just speaking the word or praying just short prayers.

To the leper Jesus said, "I will, be thou clean."

To the Centurion He said, "Go thy way, thy servant liveth."

To the storm He said, "Peace, be still."

To the blind man He said, "Thy faith hath made thee whole."

To the man with the palsey, "Arise, take up thy bed and go into thine house."

To the devils in the man in the tombs He said, "Go."

To another, "Stretch forth thy hand."

To the dead girl Jesus said, "Damsel, I say unto thee, arise."

To a mother, "Woman, the devil has gone out of thy daughter."

To a dead man Jesus said, "Young man, I say unto thee arise."

To the ears of a deaf boy, "be opened."

To a woman bowed over, "Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmities."

To ten lepers He said, "Go shew yourselves to the priests."

To Bartimaeus, "Receive thy sight, thy faith hath made thee whole."

To the Nobleman's son He said, "Go thy way thy son liveth."

To a man born blind, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam."

To another Jesus commanded, "Lazareth. come forth."

He only touched Peter's monther-in-law and she was healed. He said we could do the work He did if He sent the Holy Ghost (John 14:12). He did all His work under the anointing of the Holy Ghost (Luke 4:18; Act 10:38).

Peter said to the lame man, "Such as I have give thee . . ."

He said to a dead girl, "Tabitha, Arise."

Peter said to Aeneas, "Jesus Christ maketh thee whole . . ."

Then they were healed in His shadow without him praying or saying.

Paul commanded a lifetime cripple, "Stand up-right on thy feet."

Picking up a dead man he said, "His life is in him."

He laid his hands on Publius and healed him by God's power.

Then they were healed through handkerchiefs and aprons from his body.

Chapter VIII

TAKE THE ANSWER TO CHURCH WITH YOU

WE SHOULD HAVE THE VICTORY WHEN WE GET TO CHURCH. I'll tell you the reason we have seen thousands saved, filled, and healed. God let us take the answer from the prayer closet to church. In God's mind everything was planned and settled in advance. We were only led by the Spirit and saw things take place.

Paul did most of his praying at home. He prayed in tongues before he got to church (I Cor. 14:18-19). He that speaketh in tongues edifies himself. Prophecy edifies the Church (v. 4). Healing and miracles edifies the Church. But how can one edify the Church unless he is first edified?

Paul spake with tongues more than them all (I Cor. 14:18). He had the gifts working when he arrived; he had the saints doing the same (v. 26). Not just a few, but everyone of them, had the gifts working when they got to church. They did not have to wait until the sinners left before they got the victory for themselves (v. 25).

If Christians would pray in tongues at home regularly and live in the Spirit they would be well enough acquainted with the Spirit to know how to use tongues when they get to church.

Since the Holy Ghost worked everything out in Paul's life BEFORE HE GOT TO CHURCH HE SELDOM HAD TO PRAY AFTER HE ARRIVED. People were saved and healed as he laid hands on them, or gave a command (Acts 14:10; 19:1-6, 11-12).

Peter was not wasting time as he prayed on the housetop. He could say to Cornelius, "I have brought the answer to your prayers." Instead of taking a ser-

mon out of his note book he just began to tell them what God had told him just before he came. While he was yet speaking ALL of them received the Holy Ghost before they went to the altar (Acts 10). (About all the preacher is good for is to stay out of the way of the Spirit and tell the people what God is doing and encourage them to be led by the Spirit.)

After John lay in the Spirit on the Lord's day and received the answer he passed it on to us (Rev. 3 and 5).

LONG PUBLIC PRAYING IS NOT USUALLY SEEN IN THE BIBLE. Jesus even rebuked the Pharisees who stood and made long prayers to be heard of men.

God did this work through 'deacons,' Phillip and Stephens (Acts 8 and 7).

Look what a short prayer Ananias prayed. Paul's eyes were opened. He received the Holy Ghost. He had prayed through before leaving home. (Acts 9:10-17). He was neither a 'deacon' nor an Apostle.

The Church should be a place of deliverance for soul and body. Jesus died on the cross, not for us to be orators or for Pentecostal preachers to prepare programs for people's pleasure, but for their deliverance.

I went to a house and found a girl yelling, "Lord, I believe, O Lord, I do believe." After she said that about fifty times, I stopped her. I said, "that shows you don't believe or you would not be screaming with fear." I spoke to the disease. It left, and I went home.

Chapter IX

YOU MAY HAVE WHAT YOU SAY

IF YOU HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD IN YOUR PRAYER CLOSET YOU MAY SAY WHAT HE SAYS AT CHURCH. You may have what you say (Mark 11:23). Every moment of your life you are saying what God says or you are saying what the devil says. If one verse is quickened to you by the Spirit then you can say, "It is written."

When Abraham said, "God has given me a son," even before he saw the son, he was saying what God had told him.

When Joshua had the people to march seven days saying, "God has given us the city," they were only saying what God said.

If this seems strange to you please read I Sam. 14:10; I Kings 17:4; Judges 7:15, and hundreds of other scriptures it would take volumes to discuss.

When Isaiah said, "with His stripes we are healed," hundreds of years before Jesus died on the cross, he was speaking what God said. The people were healed then by the stripes of Jesus (Isa. 53:5).

Since God's Word is eternal it was just as true a million years ago or a million years from now, as it is now.

Every good service at Church is settled in the mind of God in advance BEFORE service. When you arrive at service you say what God has told you. If God says, "I am the Lord that healeth," look up and say, "the Lord is the Lord that healeth."

IF YOU ABIDE IN HIM AND HIS WORD ABIDES IN YOU, YOU CAN ASK WHAT YOU WILL AND RECEIVE IT (John 15:7). This does not mean the dead letter, but the word God spoke to you in your

prayer closet, which agrees with the letter. It may be that God quickens a verse of Scripture to you.

If you say what God says you say, "I can." If you say what the devil says you say, "I can't." If you say what God says, you say, "with His stripes I am healed" (I Peter 2:24); If you say what the devil says you will say, "I am in a dangerous condition."

HE THAT IS OF GOD SPEAKETH THE WORDS OF GOD (John 3:34). The words of God created the world and everything that is created. The words of God made man, and will resurrect man (John 5:28-29).

The words of God spoken through Joshua caused the sun to stand still. The words of God spoken through Isaiah brought healing to Hezekiah. The words of God spoken through Jesus were life. Peter spoke the creative words of God to the lame man, causing him to leap and run.

If God quickens Psalms 34:19 to you in your prayer closet then at church you may say, "He delivers me out of ALL my afflictions."

IF TWO AGREE ON ANYTHING THAT THEY SHALL ASK, IT SHALL BE DONE (MATT. 18:19). Agree with me and God instead of agreeing with the devil. Everything you say you are agreeing with the Lord or the devil one.

The Lord says as many as He touched were made whole (Mk. 6:56). The devil says you received a touch but did not receive your healing. Which are you going to say?

Since the secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him it is sometimes best not to tell people what God spoke to you before it comes to pass.

IF ANY MAN SPEAK LET IT BE AS THE ORACLES OF GOD (I Peter 4:11). Let the Word of God dwell in you. The Holy Ghost will give you what to speak.

Jesus or the Apostles did not specialize in being orators or saying sermons. Jesus **begins** to do and then teach (Acts 1:1).

God's man carries God's message. Daniel did not preach a long sermon to Belshazzar. Elijah did not preach a long time before the fire fell.

Isaiah only told Hezekiah to get ready to die. Ananias only spoke a few words before he layed hands on Paul to receive the Holy Ghost (Acts 9). I don't recall Peter and John preaching a series of sermons before they laid hands on Phillip's converts to receive the Holy Ghost (Acts 8). Look what a short message Paul preached to the Ephesians before he laid hands on them to receive the Holy Ghost (Acts 19:1-6).

If we carry the answer with us we will not have to pray or preach two hours in every service. People may be delivered at the gate as we enter the temple (Act 3).

AFTER THEY BROUGHT THE PALSIED MAN IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD WHERE GOD'S POWER WAS PRESENT TO HEAL HE WAS ON HIS OWN (Mark 2). It was up to him to obey God and receive healing. When the power of God is present to heal sometimes hundreds are healed in the audience.

Since the prayer of faith has been prayed at home the power to bind and loose is at church. The sick are healed by a touch, a command, a shadow, or by laying on of hands.

In Russellville I saw a woman brought in the service on a cot. She had been sick six years and could not as much as move. I told her she was healed. She arose and is still healed. In the same meeting I asked if there was someone there who could not walk. A man held up his hands. I went and took his crutches and told him he could walk. He threw away his crutches and went to work the next day. He walked that night.

In Fresno I asked if there was a lady there who

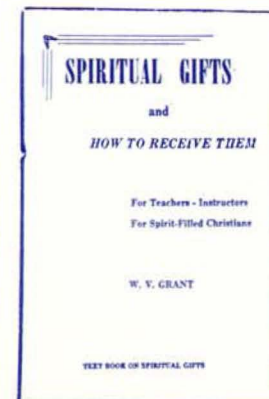
had her whole right side paralyzed. I told her she was healed. She believed me and was whole at once. In the same meeting I called for a lady who had her neck broken. She came forward and was healed instantly.

In this meeting I told a lady who had not walked in eighteen years to rise and walk. She did, and is still healed.

How many thousands of times things like these have taken place just because God revealed them to us in many hours of tarrying with the Spirit of God on us before service.

It is no secret what God can do. What He has done for others He can do for us. He WILL do for us—if we spend time to “pray through.”

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